(vi) Enhanced back-up guarantee to ECGC to cover for exports to difficult markets/ products.

(vii) Refund of Service Tax on foreign agent commissions of upto 10% of FOB value of exports as well as refund of service tax on output service while availing benefits under Duty Drawback Scheme.

(viii) Credit targets of Public Sector Banks are being revised upward to reflect the needs of the economy.

(ix) State Level Bankers Committee would be holding meetings for resolution of Credit issues of MSMEs.

(x) Guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme doubled to Rs. 1 crore with cover of 50%.

(xi) DEPB rates have been restored to pre November, 2008 levels and extended till 31.12.2009.

(xii) Duty Drawback on knitted fabrics has been enhanced retrospectively from 1.9.2008.

Sops given to textile industries

998. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the sops given to textile industries in each State; and

(b) the beneficiaries under SC/ST in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government has not given any State-wise/caste-wise sops for the textile industry.

Increasing MSP for cotton

999. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the cotton this year;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the quantum of cotton procured so far this year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the steep increase in MSP did not take into account the global downturn, thus creating perpetual problems for the textile industry and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) as the prices are not likely to firm up soon; and

(d) how does Government proposes to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has fixed MSP for two basic varieties (medium staple variety (F-414/H-777/J-34) and Long staple variety (H-4) for the cotton season 2008-09. MSP for long staple cotton and medium staple varieties of cotton are fixed at Rs. 3000/- and Rs. 2500/- per quintal leading to the hike of 48% and 39% respectively per quintal over support price fixed for 2007-08. As on 18.2.2009, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has purchased 75.23 lakh bales of cotton.

(c) The MSP is fixed by the Government of India every year on the recommendation of Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account all the various relevant factors like cost of production of cotton including global production, consumption and domestic as well as international market price differential.

(d) Does not arise.

Health insurance scheme to weavers

†1000. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICICI Lombard had been given responsibility by Government to provide the benefit of health insurance scheme to the weavers;

(b) the amount for which provision had been made for this plan and State-wise number of weavers for whom cards had been made;

(c) whether Government is aware of the widespread irregularities in this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not including more than one company in such a big scheme and whether that could not have created sense of competition in them; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government for modification in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has been implementing the Health Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers through ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.

(b) A provision of Rs. 775.00 crore has been made for the Health Insurance Scheme during the Eleventh Plan. State-wise number of weavers enrolled under the Health Insurance Scheme during the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto December, 2008) is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.